

From: atrieger@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:39am
Subject: Microsoft must be stopped

I am a software developer, Internet Entrepreneur having started 2 companies and dedicated citizen and I feel it is the governments responsibility to not only penalize Microsoft for their years of damning behavior, but structurally reorganize the company so that market pressures, not contract wording, will force its compliance to accepted business practices.

As an early user of NeXTSTEP and other advanced operating systems, it is impossible for me to describe the amount of efficiency and productivity that has been removed from the US Economy because of Microsoft's dominance with inferior products.

I also feel, however, that user's are also to blame for continually purchasing microsoft products. If it is too late to continue the fight to split microsoft into an operating system company and an applications company (where the delineation between the two is made by a consortium of experts from the field and some accepted governing guidelines), perhaps it is also possible to impose fees for illegal behavior on microsoft and use the money to fund a "user's have a choice" ad campaign. Such a campaign's goal would be to study the alternatives to microsoft in the home-user, business-user markets and provide unbiased information to consumers letting them know that even though they may only see rows and rows of microsoft products at Circuit City, there are other choices. Perhaps, also, grants could be awarded by an independent panel to fledgling technologies to help them compete. (A perfect example is how advanced most all flavors of Linux are, but they lack a cohesive user interface and simple install capabilities... when the capital markets fail to provide funding for such an effort (as they have here with two linux-all-in-one-easy-to-use companies folding) this panel could provide grants to groups dedicated to making this technology a reality.) Almost a venture financing arm of the government dedicated to diversifying the choices for consumers and levelling the playing field.

Thank you for your efforts,

Andrew Trieger
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